GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4168
ANSWERED ON:28.03.2017
Affordable Medicines
Singh Shri Rakesh

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps taken to make medicines available at affordable rates in the country and the achievements made so far, in this regard;
(b) whether it is a fact that physicians do not prescribe generic medicines and they make excuses in this regard;
(c) if so, whether the Government has taken any action in this matter;
(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and
(e) whether the Government proposes to launch any campaign to create awareness among the common people regarding generic medicines and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS; MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA)

(a): After the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013) was notified on 15.05.2013, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has notified the ceiling prices of 530 formulations which appeared in Schedule-I of DPCO, 2013. Subsequently, the Government amended the Schedule-I of the above said Order on 10.03.2016 by including the medicines in the National List of Essential Medicines 2015 (NLEM, 2015). The NPPA has so far fixed prices of 664 formulations of the revised Schedule−I. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare vide their notification dated 19.07.2016 included coronary stents in NLEM, 2015. Subsequently, the Department of Pharmaceuticals amended Schedule-I for including coronary stents in it vide its notification dated 21.12.2016. NPPA vide notification no. S.O. 412(E) dated 13.02.2017 has fixed the ceiling prices of coronary stents under two categories i.e. Bare Metal Stent at INR 7260 per unit and Drug Eluting Stents (DES) including metallic DES and Bioresorbable Vascular Scaffold (BVS)/ Biodegradable Stents in INR 29600 per unit. This resulted in reduction of the cost of stents by 85% which benefitted the patients.

(b): It has been reported that many physicians do not prescribe generics substitute which are available for branded medicines.

(c) & (d): The Government is taking various steps for encouraging use of generic medicines. The Medical Council of India has amended the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002 on 08.10.2016 to provide a new para regarding use of generic names of drugs in prescription.

(e): The Government is operating a Scheme, 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojna' (PMBJP) for providing quality generic medicines at affordable prices in the country. Various publicity media are being used to popularize the PMBJP and for creating awareness of generic medicines.
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